



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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Coming Shows, 2010

April 24-25
Waco, TX
Waco G&MS, TX
Technical College, ITC Building

April 30-May 2
Houston, TX
Houston Fine Mineral Show
Embassy Suites near The Galleria

May 1
Dallas, TX
Dallas Gem and Mineral Society
Semi-Annual Rock Swap

May 1-2
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Civic Center

May 8
Annual Rock Swap
Arlington Gem and Mineral Club
Arlington Cub House

May 29-30
Fort Worth, TX
Fort Worth G&MS
Will Rogers Memorial Center

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here. Grass growing, flowers blooming, pollen everywhere. Time to dust off your field trip gear and get ready ! Remember to always be on the lookout for critters that might cause you harm and take precautions. Noticed lots of snakes moving around now and they have been pretty aggressive. Keep a walking stick handy to help move a specimen closer to you and out from under brush. Don't reach into holes or under logs. A skunk or raccoon that's out in the daylight and doesn't try to get away from you is probably not friendly or curious, he's most likely sick. Leave them alone. If it gets aggressive, that walking stick can come in handy. Remember, it can't hurt you if it can't catch you ! Feral hogs are getting to be a problem in this area. The ones around my place usually run if they see me because they know I'll shoot them (and cook them up on the grill), but I've been run up a tree by more aggressive hogs along the Trinity River.

As always, make sure you have a survival kit with you. Include first aid supplies, a mirror, mylar blanket, a lighter, twine, tape, etc. Your cell phone may not have any reception in some areas so having something to signal for help with (mirror, fire) can be a lifesaver if you become injured. Always bring water with you and a head cover (nothing like a sunburned bald head to ruin your day - I know from personal experience). Basically, be careful and take care of yourself so you can enjoy the hobby. Until next time, good collecting and teach someone else what you know. Pass it on !

Rip Criss

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April Meeting Minutes

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:00 p.m. April 5, 2010 in the meeting room of the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX. Present were 22 members and 2 visitors..

Motion to accept minutes of the March 2, 2010 meeting was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasurer, Jeri Kitchens, gave the monthly report that included additional funds from the club show in January. She noted a donation to the club of Lapidary Journal Magazine for the last 15 years. Old business: Don Campbell gave a detailed report on the room that the club uses for monthly meetings and now rented by a church, which completed extensive remodeling; there is an issue with crumbs, etc. after meetings. Discussion followed. Tom Stringfellow made a motion to do away with all refreshments at future meetings, motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Don and Keith Harmon met with representatives of the Discovery Science Place and agreed the club will help with setting up a fluorescent mineral display as discussed at previous club meetings. Keith had a tentative cost for the club to donate two light fixtures and minerals and upon motion by Susan Burch, seconded by Colleen Hayes, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Don said that he and Gene Goar are still working on getting the club tax status changed and that the land mentioned at the last meeting did not work out.

Pete Kaiser reminded attendees the field trip to Midlothian is rescheduled to April 17.

Keith reported that it is time to send in donation to the Federation Scholarship fund; following discussion, Don entertained a motion to donate \$200, seconded by Becky Whisenant, unanimously approved. Gene then spoke on the continued search for land suitable to build a club facility. He also had samples from the first wire wrapping class and information that the instructor is interested in a second class for more advanced wire wrapping.

A short break for refreshments and door prizes was followed by the video presentation Seismology by Dr. John Renton.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



BACKYARD ROCK SALE

Hi! Just wanted to let you know that Keith and Charlotte Harmon are having a backyard sale on May 15, 2010. We will have used equipment and between 35 to 40 tons of rocks. **We will not be having an early sale before the 15th.** The sale will be from 9 am until 5 pm. Hope to see you there. To get to our house from I-20, take 69 south at the Lindale Exit. About 7 miles down the road turn right onto loop 323, go about 8 miles to Hwy 69 south and turn right, go 3 miles (hwy 69 has a divider down the middle of the road) to the traffic light at the end of the divider and turn left onto Heritage Drive. Go to the stop sign and turn right onto Harvard Dr., go to the next stop sign and our house will be on your left. Address is 8316 Oxford Dr. Feel free to email this to your friends and club members. Our phone number is 903-581-4068 903-581-4068 if you need to call us.



Wire-wrapping Class



The first beginners wire-wrapping class was held on March 5th. Our teacher was Pat Nixon. The picture above from left to right shows Sandy, Pat Nixon, Becky, Santa, Jan, Susan, Gene and Betty. The picture to the left shows our first efforts at wire-wrapped pendants in a basket setting. There was also a class held on Saturday the 6th. Pat Nixon is looking for any who took the beginner's class to participate in an advanced class soon.



If the Boot Fits... **By Becky Whisenant**

We are the sum of our experiences -- both intentional and accidental, even catastrophic. Hanging off a rock ledge underneath the fence at Dead Horse Point, feet anchored by my friend, I once snatched an elusive rock that I no longer have 39 years later. No matter. I can still feel the dry, hot wind of the Canyon lands, the gritty rasp of sandstone on my belly and the tension in my friend's grip. I still feel the fear, not just of falling, but of my parents' discovery, these both overruled by the elation of stepping out of sanity for a moment to meet with the expanse, the terra firma.

If people were color coded according to intensity and strangeness, I would be out on the periphery of the spectrum. But I suspect there would be familiar faces there to keep company. At club meetings, there are smiles and conversations, exchanges and plans made. But beneath the surface are intangible layers, a direct result of actions such as the one above. Hopeless rock hounds, by their very nature, go beyond the pale, or actually, beyond the pail, to the edge, so to speak, time after time. And though the prize, the specimen retrieved, may have long since been lost, given away, misplaced or discarded, the lasting effect is the same. It is the process, the adventure, that makes our life rich, feeds the attitude, and pushes us a little further down that color line. It is the glue of our eclectic group. Camaraderie, common insanity, friendship, call it what you will, it symbolizes life, and the pursuit of it.

So take time to examine, listen, and observe, not just the rocks, gems & minerals, but the humans responsible for transporting them to your sphere of reality. They, too, are just as fascinating and multi-dimensional as the treasures they bring.



Special thanks to Gene & Cindy Sudduth of Flint, TX, for donating 15 years of Lapidary Journals.



Lapidary Corner

SELECTING A CHAIN

With many years of repairing chains, we would like to pass along to you some important tips for choosing a chain.

1. Decide if you will be wearing a pendant on your chain. This alone will help determine the type of chain that will give you the best service. Many flat link Italian chains cannot support even the lightest weight pendant.
2. A chain should be smooth. If it has sharp bites when you run it through your fingers, it will be uncomfortable to wear. In time it will wear out whatever you hang on it.
3. A chain should be flexible, especially if you wear pendants. If a chain will not bend, it will kink and often break. You can tell if a chain is flexible by letting it coil in the palm of your hand.
4. A chain should have soldered links for strength. Most flat link chains and Italian style chains are soldered and then run through a rolling mill, which may break or weaken the solder joints.
5. Avoid hollow chains. Gold is an expensive metal. Consumers should be aware that to cut cost, many imported chains are made with hollow links. If you could see a cross section of one of these, it would look like gold foil. How do these chains hold up? They don't. Worst of all, they are impossible to repair. In our shop, we will not repair hollow chains. They are a nightmare.

From The Olson Company of Seattle, Washington, via The Rock Collector, 4/98, via Hound's Howl 6/98; via Stoney Statements 4/10.

Compatibility of Backing Materials –

One respondent on this subject mentioned backing opals with material of a similar coefficient of expansion. ???? Enlighten us, please. I have a box of Spencer opals sitting here ready to work on and a box of thin slices for backing; obsidian, Basenite, black jade, etc. Offhand I would assume that silicon dioxide materials would be preferable. But where on earth would we find information on coefficients of expansion for gem materials?

The coefficient of expansion is simply the amount a material expands or contracts at different temperatures. When gluing two materials together it's best to pick materials with similar physical characteristics to minimize stresses on the glue bond. When I make a doublet or triplet I don't want it coming apart five or ten years from now. Just use stones with a similar hardness & specific gravity to the stone you're gluing and the coefficients of expansion should be close enough.

For hardness and specific gravity info, any good rock and mineral book should have that info. Also on the web, check out—<http://web.wt.net/~daba/Mineral/index.htm> or the International Gem Society <http://205.254.196.60/>

You are right, silicon dioxide materials would be the best if they are in the same hardness and specific gravity range as opal. Quartz is really a bit on the extreme end of the list, but what else can you use for a good clear top for a triplet? Sometimes you can get black opal patch for next to nothing from some of the Australian opal suppliers. Of the items you listed, I would go with the basenite. That is what I have had the best luck with. Obsidian will work but it's not the best and I would stay away from the black jade. *From Lapidary Digest Jan 99; via Stoney Statements 4/10*



The Lake Texoma field trip in February, proved to be highly successful for those who went. There was a nice turn out with everyone coming home with all kinds of finds. The top is a picture of an Ammonite in matrix, and below is a picture of Glen Tudor with a selection of his treasures from the trip.





Today's Planet by Al Pennington

The Earth continues to be active in the wake of the great Chilean Earthquake last February so its time to learn a bit. We shall start with terminology. Aftershocks: Large earthquakes hardly ever occur alone. When one earthquake happens, we usually see another at a nearby location. To talk about this phenomenon, seismologists coined three terms: "foreshock", "mainshock", and "aftershock". In any cluster of earthquakes, the one with the largest magnitude is called the mainshock; anything before it is called a foreshock and anything after it is called an aftershock.

The fault that moves in the mainshock experiences a great redistribution of the stress on it during the mainshock and it is that disrupted surface that produces most of the aftershocks. Sometimes the change in stress in the mainshock is great enough to trigger aftershocks on nearby faults. However, the stress change dies off quickly with distance from the fault so we rarely see aftershocks more than a few kilometers from the main fault. As a rule of thumb, we say that aftershocks are other earthquakes triggered at a distance from the mainshock fault no greater than the length of that fault.

The length of the fault scales with the magnitude of the mainshock and so do the aftershocks. The aftershock zone of a magnitude 5 mainshock will be under 5 miles across, that of a magnitude 6.5 will be about 20 miles across, while that of magnitude 8 mainshock might be over 200 miles long. Bigger earthquakes have more and larger aftershocks. As the magnitude of the mainshock increases, the magnitude of the largest aftershock, on average, increases as well. The question is often asked? How many aftershocks will there be?? On average, for each magnitude 5 aftershock in a sequence, we will see 10 magnitude 4 aftershocks, 100 magnitude 3 aftershocks, 1000 magnitude 2 aftershocks, etc. The relative number of small to large aftershocks does not appear to change with time. In general, an earthquake large enough to cause damage will produce several felt aftershocks within the first hour. The rate of aftershocks dies off quickly with time so even the second day will have many less aftershocks than the first.

We call an earthquake an aftershock as long as the rate at which earthquakes are occurring in that region is greater than the rate we saw before the mainshock. How long that will be depends on the size of the mainshock (bigger earthquakes have a higher rate of aftershocks so it stays above background longer) and how active the region was before the mainshock (if it was quiet, aftershocks stay noticeable longer.)

Significant Earthquake and News Headlines

- Magnitude 7.2 BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO April 04, 2010
- Magnitude 4.4 GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA, CALIFORNIA March 16, 2010
- Magnitude 6.7 OFFSHORE BIO-BIO, CHILE March 16, 2010
- Magnitude 6.5 NEAR THE EAST COAST OF HONSHU, JAPAN March 14, 2010
- Magnitude 6.9 LIBERTADOR O HIGGINS, CHILE March 11, 2010
- Magnitude 6.1 EASTERN TURKEY March 08, 2010
- Magnitude 6.8 SOUTHERN SUMATRA, INDONESIA March 05, 2010
- Magnitude 8.8 OFFSHORE MAULE, CHILE February 27, 2010

Ref: Material derived from in part: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/>

Stoney Statements 4/10

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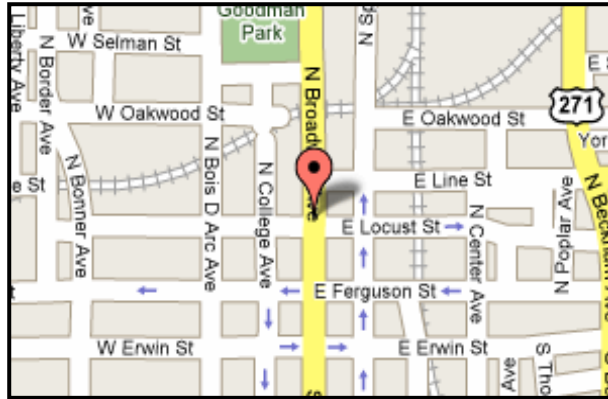
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FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Your name could be HERE!!!
Volunteer Today!

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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Feel free to use contents and graphics for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

Is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, fossils and the lapidary arts. The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

Annual dues are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.50 for juniors.

Please send any info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor by the 15th of the month. Please keep your address, phone and email information up-to-date, so that we can get the newsletter to you in a timely manner. Out-of-date information costs the club time and money in returned newsletters.

Thank you... SB



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